

ington, a place where this form, if it occurs at all, is very scarce. The revised synonymy is as follows:

*C. obliqua* Rafinesque, West. Rev. 1, 229 (1819).

?*C. sericea*  $\gamma$ ? *schuetzeana* Meyer, Mem. Acad. Imp. Sci. St-Peterb. (6 ser.) 7, pt. 2, 219 (1849).

*C. purpusi* Koehne, Gartenflora 48, 338 (1899).

*C. cyanocarpus* var. *albescens* Farwell, RHODORA 33, 70 (1931).

*C. amomum* var. *schuetzeana* Rickett, RHODORA 36, 274 (1934).

In addition, Rickett certainly did not demonstrate that *C. candidissima* Miller should supersede *C. stricta* Lamarck. Suppositions of correct citations made at a time of much poorer taxonomic knowledge and imperfect specimens cast grave doubt on the supposed identity of *C. candidissima* Miller. It is to be regretted that the color of the pith of the Clayton specimen mentioned by Rickett (loc. cit. p. 273) was not recorded, as that could have furnished the best proof of the identity of the specimen and it would have lent considerable weight to Rickett's hypothesis. The Plukenet reference (*Cornus foemina, candidissimis foliis, americana* (Almag.: 120, 1696)) is far too meagre a link in Rickett's chain of reasoning. The phrase *umbellis involucro minoribus* cited is easiest explained as contrasting with the *umbellis involucro maximo* of the description of *C. florida* rather than derived from the Clayton specimen cited by Gronovius (Fl. Virg. 17 1739). Miller must have considered *C. candidissima* and *C. foemina* as distinct entities but there are no distinguishable differences either in the descriptions or discussion. Both must remain *nomina dubia*, a procedure entailing no difficulties since the species to which these names have been variously applied all possess definite names in current use.

CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,

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NOTE ON THE PERIODIC FRUITING OF *COPRINUS MICACEUS*—During the summer of 1933 the writer passed daily a decorticated stump of an Elm tree on the top and sides of which he frequently noticed fruiting profusely quantities of *Coprinus micaceus* Fr. The stump projects about nine inches above the ground and is located about 1000 feet from the Biological Laboratories in a spot which is completely shaded from exposure to direct sunlight. At first no particular attention was given to this fungus, yet presently it became apparent that the periodic appearance was very uniform, so much so that it was possible to determine nearly four weeks in advance when material



would be available for class use. However, no data were kept on the occurrence during this year.

When, however, the same fungus fruit bodies began to appear on the stump in the following spring, the writer was curious enough to note, at first casually, then with increasing interest, the dates on which fruiting occurred, beginning the last of May, after three fruitings had passed. From the first appearance of the small buttons until the final deliquescence of the mature bodies about 36 hours elapsed. Exact observations were impossible on this point, since fruiting usually began during the night, and final disintegration was only a matter of estimate. While recording included complete duration so far as possible, the following figures are based on the middle time of fruiting, that is, a point arbitrarily chosen half way between the estimated beginning and end of fruiting.

Fruitings were observed to occur on:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Interval elapsed from previous fruiting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Interval elapsed from previous fruiting</i>
1. May 25		8. August 1	9.5 days
2. June 5	11 days	9. August 9-10	8.5 days
(3. June 16	11 days) <sup>1</sup>	10. August 19-20	9.5 days
4. June 26-27	10.5 days	11. August 30-31	11 days
5. July 6	9.5 days	12. September 10	10.5 days
6. July 14-15	8.5 days	13. September 20	10 days
7. July 22-23	8 days	14. September 30	10 days

While observations were continued during two additional months, no further fruiting of *Coprinus* occurred; instead the massed fruits of *Collybia velutipes* Fr. developed in great profusion over a period of three weeks from October 15.

This regular recurrence of fruiting would seem to indicate that external factors could not be the cause of the regularity observed. However, to make sure of this possibility, the writer examined at the Geographic Institute of Harvard University the charts showing hourly variations in temperature and humidity and the precipitation records to discover whether any correlations occurred. Absolutely none could be found, which would seem to show that the only factor concerned is the time necessary for the storing up of the needed food reserves, after which fruiting will occur regardless of external conditions.—R. M. WHELDEN, Biological Laboratories, Harvard University.

<sup>1</sup> The writer returned from a short vacation to discover the fungi in the state of disintegration characteristic of the end of a fruiting period.